



Commission Quarterly

Published by Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, Lincoln, Nebraska

APRIL 2005

SPRING ISSUE

"Weaving Women's Voices" Heralds Three Honorees

LLWC Letters

February 2005

Ms. Kathleen Uhrmacher,
President
Ms. Bonnie Coffey,
Director
Lincoln Lancaster Women's
Commission Members

I am writing to express my appreciation for being selected to receive the Alice Paul Award on March 11, 2005.

This prestigious award has been received by outstanding women in our community and it was quite a surprise and humbling experience to be so honored. It is wonderful to know that others feel your work in the community is worthy of recognition by such a great organization as the Women's Commission.

Thank you so very much for this honor and also for the special gifts.

Peace and love,
Leola Bullock.

Celebrating its 29th annual event titled, *Weaving Women's Voices*, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission hosted its traditional awards luncheon at the Cornhusker Hotel on March 11, 2005, to celebrate International Women's Day and honor three outstanding community leaders.

Modeled after a daring Nebraskan journalist during the turn of the century, the Erasmus Correll Award is designed to heighten awareness of men's efforts to the advancement of women's equality in society. **Senator David Landis** was selected as the recipient for 2005. He has been described by his colleagues as being one of the most talented, consistent and even-tempered public servants ever seated in the Rotunda. Sen. Landis will be the first to tell you that change in Nebraska does not come easy, and he's not afraid to take the most unpopular position in an effort to balance competing interests with regards to minority rights. People re-elect him year after year because they trust him. They may not always agree with him, but they know beyond a shadow of a doubt what he stands for. He knows how to effectively motivate people toward a common end. His stand against unfair employment and wage issues, discrimination and sexual harassment practices, unfair housing practices and business incentives for child care have forwarded the work of the women's movement in the 21st century toward gender equity and social acceptance.

Joy Ritchie, Ph.D., received the 2005 Woman Artist -Written Word Award. She was selected for her remarkable contributions to the art of combining feminism and writing. Employed with the University of Nebraska as an English professor, her research has helped establish the field of women's rhetoric. Through her written works, she wasn't afraid to bust the scholarly myth that the traditional canon of rhetoric was the last word and women's ways of writing and speaking were unimportant in history. She has made a coherent "herstory" of women's speeches, essays, manifestoes, petitions, letters, and public arguments available to feminists of the future. As director of the Women's Studies program, she has brought more women of color faculty into the program, increased the multicultural programming, and earned a seed grant to establish a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Studies minor on campus. Within the last ten years, Dr. Ritchie has written 31 *Selected Refereed and Invitation* papers, two books, and served on more than two dozen boards, commissions and task forces aimed at gender equity and women in education.

The Alice Paul Award is presented to a woman whose life's work reflects her dedication to the struggle for equality. In recognition of her determination, the Women's Commission selected equal rights advocate, **Leola Bullock**, who has become one of the pillars of the civil rights movement in the Lincoln community. Before it was fashionable for women to voice their concerns in public over unfair social practices, she was promoting a feminist perspective to challenge the male dominated power structure on matters of equity and equality in public, government and private sectors. With a "no-fear attitude," Leola has stood before state law makers, school boards, city and county government officials to have a voice in the making of public policy that would ensure a more inclusive society. Leola has guest lectured to help college classes understand the historical context of racial complexities, which also adversely impact women of color.



Celebrating the 29th annual event, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission selected three outstanding community leaders to be honored at the March 11, 2005 luncheon. Pictured left to right is Sen. David Landis, Erasmus Correll Award winner; Dorothy Witherspoon, keynote speaker from the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau in Kansas City, MO.; Leola Bullock, Alice Paul Award recipient, and Dr. Joy Ritchie, Woman Artist-Written Word Award winner. Each winner received their awards from last year's award recipients.

Mayor Coleen J. Seng welcomed keynote speaker, Dorothy Witherspoon, with a Key to the City and a brief presentation on behalf the State of Nebraska to honor her with an Admiralship recognition. Mayor Seng also proclaimed March as Women's History Month and presented a proclamation deeming March 8th as International Women's Day. President Kathie Uhrmacher, background, watches the presentation.

In 2001, the Women's Commission rewrote its evening banquet tradition by moving the awards program to a daytime event. Celebrating the great diversity of many races and ethnic groups living in Lincoln-Lancaster County, the awards program was modified to reflect the advancement of women on an global scale. Thus, the Commission holds its annual awards program on the second Friday in March in observation of March 8th being International Women's Day. The Cornhusker Hotel ballroom was decorated in multicolored flags from many countries.

As usual, a full house of supporters and guests attended the recognition ceremony to witness and honor those individuals who have made great strides to improve the quality of life for women in the community and pursue the advancement of women socially, economically and legally.

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Council of Women Leaders Widen Your Circle of Contacts!

**Tuesday
April 19, 2005
Holiday Inn
Downtown- Lincoln
141 S. 9th St.
5:15 Check-In
5:30-7 PM
Cost \$10
Call LLWC for more
information
441-7716**

Proud Member of
NACW
National Association of Commissions for Women

Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster
Women's Commission
P.O. Box 81454
Lincoln, NE 68501-1454

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LLWA On-Line Services

Located within the city's "Interlinc" web site system, the Women's Alliance (LLWA) directory offers a wide variety of information on individual clubs and organizations, including the contact information. If your organization or agency would like to post information free of charge or update its current information, an application can be obtained from the web site's index page (www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/women/llwa) or call 441-7716 and one will be snail-mailed to you.

If you are looking for a way to become actively involved in the community, make new friends or strengthen networks, look in the listings for great connections!

Commission Quarterly Newsletter

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) is an Advisory Board created by elected officials to advise the Mayor, Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board on issues that impact women. Please address any correspondence to: Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, 440 S. 8th St., Ste. 100, Lincoln NE 68508-2294 or call (402) 441-7717.

Editorial Policy:
The Commission Quarterly is a publication of Friends of LLWC. Publishing costs are paid by Friends of LLWC. Materials appearing in this publication shall be in accordance with the purposes, goals and official positions of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission and Friends of LLWC. The Commission Quarterly is published four times a year: January, April, July and October.

Criteria for Publication:
Submissions by community groups and individuals are welcome. Deadlines are the first of the month preceding the month of publication. Articles are subject to editing, with the author's compliance. Specific opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions held by LLWC employees, its Commissioners or Friends of LLWC.

Advertising
Advertising is available in a business card sized ad and will be accepted as space is available on a first come, first serve basis. All ads should be camera ready and must be submitted one month before the publication date. For more information on advertising opportunities, call 441-7717.

Friends of the Commission
Friends of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is a 501 (c)(3) organization that solicits funds for commission projects.

LLWC Staff
Margie Kniep, Senior Office Specialist; Diane Mullins, Public Information Specialist, and Bonnie Coffey, Director.

Friends Executive Board
Marcia Kushner, past president
Karen Dienstbier, president
Roberta Stick, vice president
Georgia Glass, treasurer
Nan Schweiger, secretary
Nancy Intermill, board member


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Invisibility, Silence, Stigma: Life in Lincoln as a Lesbian

■ Guest editorial, part two in a four-part series

By Pat Tetreault, Ph.D.



One may question whether invisibility and silence are still issues for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community given the increased attention to issues surrounding our community in the political realm. Stigma is unquestionably still an issue although invisibility and silence operate differently than they did in the past. With increased visibility, we see, hear, and maybe even talk more about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. At the same time, there is

trepidation over bringing these and related topics up for discussion.

At another level, many people remain closeted. The degree of *being closeted* or *out* varies for individuals depending on where a person is in the coming out process. *Coming out* can be a life-long process that directly relates to invisibility, silence and stigma. We live in a society where a prevalent assumption is that one is heterosexual. If we do not want people to make this assumption about us, if we want someone to know who we are and/or who our family and friends are, then we have to make a conscious decision to come out on a regular basis for the rest of our lives. For example, when filling out forms (for a doctor, an application, a government form), I am faced with the choice of whether I mark the legally correct box, which indicates I am single, or whether I write in the reality of my life — I am cohabitating or have a partner or if I'm identified as transgender, I would have to make decisions about which sex to check. Despite the fact that businesses, organizations, and institutions know we exist and often want our business, relationship status in not the question – it is whether or not the government recognizes our relationships or whom we identify as our family. The result is a message that says we do not count, our reality is not included. Bottom line — stay silent, be invisible. And, silence and invisibility result in stigma. Stigma results in more silence and invisibility, and speaking up and being visible often means having to deal more openly with stigma. This invisibility, silence and stigma also impacts allies, families, and friends, who have their own coming out process to go through – *Who is it safe to tell? How will they react?*

Whether we are silent or not, visible or not, how we experience stigma makes a difference. When people understand that we are not scary people responsible for all the world's problems, it makes a dent in the stigma, the invisibility, the silence. One of the biggest factors in supporting equal rights for the LGBT community is when people realize they know and care about someone who is LGBT and it does not change

“We will not remember the words of our enemies but we will remember the silence of our friends,” -- Martin Luther King


When You Take Home Less, You Stay Home More

Given their lower earnings, women are usually the parent who takes time off to raise small children. That means they are out of the workforce, which lowers their earnings when they return. But not all women are taking time off - many families rely on two paychecks and cannot afford for one parent to stay home. A 1992 study by the international executive search firm Korn/Ferry found that, of women in senior management positions in Fortune 1000 industrial and 500 service companies, only a third had taken a leave of absence, and most took fewer than six months off.

Shouldn't families be able to have pay equity and children?

Subscription Information

Yes, we know, things do change. New address? Kids grow up? Landed a new job? Got a new friend? Whatever your reasons, the Women's Commission continues to be your reliable source of women's news on women's issues locally and nationally. Yes, life does go on! And, we don't want to miss you! Be sure to keep us informed on your new contact information. If you have received this publication in error, please call 441-7717 to be removed from the list.



Surfing the Web again? Click Here!

www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/women/index.htm


What will you see? Our work! Annual reports, special reports, Women's Leadership Recruitment Program, Advisory Board membership, Friends information, Women's Alliance Directory, Women in Education grant information, statistics, resources & contact information, news releases, past newsletters, and much, much more!

WomenTalk

A show by women about women's issues - aired four times each week on 5 City TV - Cable Ch. 5

APRIL & MAY TOPIC "Perspectives: Muslim Women"

Program Schedule



Tuesdays, 11 PM
Wednesdays, 10:30 PM
Fridays, 1:30 PM
Sundays, 10 AM
*Subject to preempting

their perception of who that person is. I still hear people say they don't know anyone who is LGBT, but we all do. Some just don't know it — yet. LGBT people are coming out at younger ages, a history is being documented, more research and academic studies are taking place, and our community and allies are standing up and asking for equal rights. The political controversy about whether LGBT people are entitled to equal rights also lends visibility. The negative and misleading attacks on our community are used as a means to maintain invisibility, encourage silence, and maintain stigma. Backlash is a sign that progress has occurred.

Invisibility and stigma can also be a consequence of increased visibility and the politicalization of sexuality and gender. People don't like to talk about controversial issues, they often don't understand the impact and consequences of the legislation or constitutional amendments that are proposed, and when passed, legitimize and facilitate the continuation of discrimination.

When people are afraid to talk about issues because they fear the reactions they may receive, when people are afraid to be who they are because they may be shunned, lose a job, a family, a friend or their social support system; when someone is afraid to support equal rights, it can result in silence, invisibility, and stigma. When diversity and inclusion means everyone but *you* — the result can be invisibility, silence, and stigma unless we speak up, become visible, and reclaim our personhood and our rights.

The political issue of LGBT rights is simply about equality under the law and civil rights. It is not about defending heterosexual marriage or the beginnings of the downfall of civilization. Bottom line question: Do you really believe it is okay to discriminate?

The rhetoric used by those opposed to equal rights for the LGBT community discourage people from thinking of this issue as a civil rights issue. When the conversation is framed as a discrimination issue, people do not support it. When framed as protecting heterosexual marriage, people want to defend the institution of marriage. In a recently publicized private conversation, President Bush acknowledged this when he stated that he did not want to discriminate against people (in reference to gays). Politically, however, he supports amending our federal constitution to ensure discrimination is allowed. Proponents of the amendment want to alter our constitution to get around the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law. This is a radical and dangerous suggestion because carving out exceptions means the next exception could impact you.

Would you want people to remain silent and invisible to avoid the stigma and how would it make you feel?

In the matter of the Federal Government, Patrick Henery said it the best, “You are not to inquire how your trade may be increased, nor how you are to become a great and powerful people, but how your liberties can be secured; for liberty ought to be the direct end of your government,” --*Patrick Henery, June 5, 1788.*

May is Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Month

The Lincoln-Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition was formed to deter teenage pregnancy and prevent the negative effects of adolescent child bearing and parenting through an integrated system of comprehensive services. The Coalition respects a diversity of philosophical viewpoints. It does not, as a group, advocate for specific solutions and viewpoints, but leaves these philosophical positions up the each member organization. The Coalition works together in those areas of group agreement. A statistical overview of Lincoln and Lancaster County in 2003:

- ◆ Teen Births were 309, which is 7.6% of all births for that year.
- ◆ The average age of teen mother was 17.9 and the average age of the father was 21.47.
- ◆ 11.6% of high school students reported their first sexual encounter occurred at the age of 12 or younger.
- ◆ By race/ethnicity, 258 teen mothers are white, 44 are Hispanic, 30 are black and 21 are Asian, American Indian or mixed.
- ◆ 26.6% of high school students reported using alcohol or drugs prior to last sexual intercourse incident.
- ◆ 72.8% of high school students reported using condoms during last sexual intercourse incident.

NATIONALLY SPEAKING

- ◆ Teens say parents influence their sexual decision-making more than any other source.
- ◆ Research clearly suggests that addressing sex and its consequences, as well as the benefits and limitations of contraception, cannot be put off until high school.
- ◆ Students cite teachers and counselors as second only to their families as the most reliable sources of sexuality information.
- ◆ The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births of any comparable country.

Call LLWC, 441-7716, for more information on TPPC or to obtain copies of the TPPC fact sheet or resources. The above was compiled by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Vital Statistics - 2002 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Lincoln Public Schools and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Work Merits Value to Community, Not Budget Cut

Since its creation in 1976, the Women's Commission has had as its mission "to work toward eliminating social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their present and future roles in the family, the labor force, education and society in general." Visionaries like Helen Boosalis and Jan Gauger saw that an advisory board funded by both the city council and the county board would be an important asset to both groups. In the almost thirty years since, it has been an active part of our total community.

As a Commissioner for three years, I have been both impressed and amazed at what has been accomplished in our two areas of focus, women's health and women's leadership and public policy, with increasingly limited funding. The current two staff members are able to literally pull rabbits out of hats! The director is not only at the helm of all of the Commission's activities, but she also serves on numerous community committees and

initiatives. The public information specialist's list of talents is endless. In addition, fifteen volunteer Commissioners dedicate many hours to LLWC activities. Just during my short tenure, I've seen the development of "A Place at the Table," the "Council of Women Leaders" networking events, the upcoming "Ready to Run" conference for potential political candidates and the Women and Money conference. I've been part of the Candlelight Vigil during Domestic Violence Awareness Week at the Rape/Spousal Abuse Crisis Center and will soon work to refurbish the Silent Witness Project. The Patient Project is a unique, multi-lingual effort that fulfills a need in our community that was not being met by any other agency. These are just part of the projects and activities that I have been able to be part of as a Commissioner in just a few short years.

The fiscal budget in 2004-



Kathie Uhrmacher

2005 was \$198,917 (includes benefits), which was a meek 0.082% of the total city budget. This year, directors must submit a budget for FY 05/06 that's four percent less than the previous year. And yet, I recently heard comments related to whether or not the city and/or county should continue funding the Commission. As we head into the budget season, I hope you will contact the city council representatives and county board members to encourage their continued support of the Lincoln Lancaster Women's Commission. Here are some "talking points" to help in those conversations.

- The Women's Commission ...
- Facilitates communications and cooperation between specific and specialized groups and agencies to implement a common goal for Lincoln and Lancaster County women.
 - Speaks as a community voice, representing 51% of the

Lincoln-Lancaster County population in equal rights, equal treatment under the law and justice.

- Monitors a growing and changing community, filled with racial and ethnic diversity, and to advise elected officials about impacts on women and children.
 - Broadens the base of involvement for women of color.
 - Provides support and technical assistance to community groups and the private sector in resources, planning and research.
 - Serves as a clearinghouse for information in assisting women in need, women in study and women seeking empowerment.
 - Advocates and promotes consumer education specific to women's issues, and awareness of the availability or lack of community support systems.
 - Acts as a catalyst for change for a community in flux.
 - Alerts elected officials on the status of women's lives in Lincoln and Lancaster County.
- Call your elected representative today, and get involved. Join Friends of LLWC and make sure your voice is heard in government!

City Council General Election Debate

The public is invited to two upcoming debates for candidates for City Council and Lincoln Public School Board.

On Monday, April 11 from 7:30 to 9 p.m., the six City Council candidates from the April 5 primary election will participate in a debate at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 "M" Street. The debate will take place in the church's Family Life Center on the mail Floor. Lincoln Public School and Lincoln Airport Authority candidates have been invited to bring their campaign information and to meet individually with voters beginning at 6:30 p.m. Candidates will display and distribute their campaign materials in the wet end of the Family Life Center. Cosponsors include the League of Women Voters of Lincoln-Lancaster County, Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, Aging Services, North 27th Business and Civic Association and NAACP. This event will be taped and rebroadcast on 5-City TV until May 3.

A second debate with candidates for City Council and Lincoln Public School Board is being hosted by the Malone Community Center, 2032 "U" Street on Thursday, April 21 beginning at 7 p.m. Cosponsors include the Malone Center, NAACP, Council of Negro Women, Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission and Center for People in Need.

Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll - Everything Parents Need to Know!

Statistics indicate that youth want to learn about issues of sex, alcohol and drugs from their parents. An annual survey produced by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy indicates that the group that most influences their decisions about sex are parents; most parents believe teens' friends are the largest influencer.

Eighty-seven percent of teens say it would be easier for them to postpone sexual activity and avoid teen pregnancy if they were able to have more open, honest conversations with their parents.

In addition, 90% of parents of teens believe they should talk to their kids about sex, but don't often know what to say, how to say it, or when to start. Help is on the way!

The Lincoln-Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition (TPPC) has scheduled a workshop for parents set for Thursday, May 19, from 7-9 p.m., held at BryanLGH Medical Center West, 2300 S. 16th Street. A panel of experts let by T. J. McDowell will provide contemporary

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

Jan. 3, 2005	First day Election Commissioner can receive application for mail absentee ballot — 120 days before election.
Apr. 15, 2005	Deadline for mail-in voter registrations. Registration forms must be postmarked
Apr. 18, 2005	Absentee Voters' ballots ready -15 days before election.
Apr. 22, 2005	Deadline for in-person voter registrations.
Apr. 27, 2005	4:00 p.m. Deadline to accept requests for absentee ballots to be mailed to a specific address
May 2, 2005	Last day to vote an Absentee Ballot in the office. Open until 5:00 p.m.
May 3, 2005	GENERAL ELECTION -1st Tuesday in May.

information on drugs and alcohol and how they can lead to risky behavior, including sex. Panel members include representatives from Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, SCIP, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), an LPD School Resource Officer and a human sexuality educator. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn how to be an "askable parent," receive answers to questions and pick up information from TPPC member organizations. The event is free of charge, but registration is required by calling 441-8045.

Founded in 1988, the Lincoln Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition (TPPC) is composed of a broad representation of community agencies and individuals working together to find common solutions to the issues resulting from teenage pregnancy. The Coalition respects a diversity of philosophical viewpoints, but leaves these philosophical positions up to each member organization. As a group, the Coalition works together in those areas of group agreement.

Second Saturday Vendor's Faire
Handmade Gifts, Accessories, Arts & Crafts
Personal & Financial Services
Stop & Shop with us on Saturday!
10 AM to 3 PM
April 9, May 14, June 11
@ Lincoln Woman's Club

407 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508
Call 474-1277 for more information. Hosted by Woman's A Faire

Diet Center
The weight-loss professionals.®

The Weight Loss Professionals
Sue Shamblin
Karen Van Abrahams

5540 South St., Ste. 105
Lincoln NE 68506

(402) 488-5310
Fax (402) 488-5313
E-mail: SVALLC@aol.com

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

We're looking for new members to join AAUW!

Help promote equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal changes. Contact Julie McLean (402) 488-3205 to learn more on how you can get involved to make the difference in the big picture! Or, e-mail to: jmclean01@yahoo.com.

Ameritas offers protection for your family and your future. Visit us on the Web at www.ameritas.com or call us as 402-467-1122

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When You Need A Friend, Just Call On Me!

Become a member and support the Commission. Send your tax deductible donation(s) to:

Friends of LLWC
PO Box 81454
Lincoln NE 68501-1454

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2005

11: Candidate's Forum @ St. Paul's United Methodist, 1144 M St., 7:30-9:30 p.m.

13: Regular Commission meeting, K St. Complex, Conf. room, 5:45 -7 p.m.

19: Council of Women Leaders @ Holiday Inn Downtown Lincoln, 5:30-7 p.m.

19: EQUAL PAY DAY

21: Candidate's Debate @ Malone Ctr., 2032 U St., 7-9 PM

MAY 2005

ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH
TEENAGE PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

11: Regular Commission meeting, K St. Complex, Conf. room, 5:45 -7 p.m.

19: WomenTalk taping of "Overexposed: Dangers of Tanning."

30: OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day

JUNE 2005

GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE MONTH

8: Regular meeting - cancelled

30: Summer Commission Quarterly mailed.

Mission Statement

Working as a division of the Mayor's Office since 1976, the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission strives to assure that the women of Lincoln & Lancaster County have full participation in the issues that have an impact on their lives. The Commission advises City and County officials of social, economic and legal barriers that prevent women from choosing their roles in the family, the labor force and society in general, and working toward the elimination of those barriers. With 15 volunteers and a paid staff of three, the Commission continues to engage in activities designed to heighten community awareness in the areas of self-sufficiency, health care, safety, education and act as a clearinghouse of information for women in need.

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IMPACT

By Jennifer Gutierrez,
LLWC Vice President

I joined the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission because..

"I joined the Lincoln-Lancaster County Women's Commission over two years ago because I wanted to actively participate in a results-oriented organization that made a long-lasting impact on the lives of women in our community. During my tenure I have been extremely impressed with the strategic initiatives implemented by both the Commissioners and staff of LLWC including the Women Vote! initiative, the Places at the Table report, the WomenTalk bimonthly television program, and the multilingual patient rights and responsibilities resources created by the Commission."

I believe LLWC is important to Lincoln and Lancaster County because ...

"I believe that LLWC is important to all residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County because it works to do more than raise awareness of issues important to our community. It works to change the fabric of the society from which gender inequity issues — such as equal pay, health care, political representation, and others — arise."

**With each publication of the Commission Quarterly newsletter, LLWC will spotlight a Commissioner's responses on the above two questions.

Their Contact Information

U.S. Senate

Hon. Charles T. Hagel

294 Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln NE 68508
(402) 476-1400
[www.hagel.senate.gov/
index.cfm?FuseAction=Offices.Contact](http://www.hagel.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Offices.Contact)

Hon. Ben Nelson

287 Federal Building
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln NE 68508
(402) 441-4600
[www.bennelson.senate.gov/
email.html](http://www.bennelson.senate.gov/email.html)

U. S. Congress

Hon. Jeff Fortenberry

House of Representatives
301 S. 13th St., Suite 100
Lincoln NE 68508
(402) 438-1598
**no e-mail address listed*

State of Nebraska
Clerk of the Legislature
(402) 471-2271

**Ask to speak to your district representative.*

Annual Report - List of Achievements

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2003-2004

With 15 volunteer Commissioners, a paid staff of three and an FY 03/04 budget of \$184,922, LLWC's budget represented .084% of the city and county tax funds combined (\$220,733,862) or 73 cents per person in Lancaster County. Our list of achievements ...

- ☆ Co-sponsored the **Nebraska Women's Success Quilt** kickoff state tour with Mayoral news conference and educational promotion about domestic violence, sexual assault, life-threatening health problems and economic distress.
- ☆ Co-sponsored the **Candlelight Vigil** in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the YWCA's Week Without Violence events.
- ☆ Co-sponsored **WomenLINC**, to provide networking opportunities for women.
- ☆ Published the **Commission Quarterly** newspaper and distributed 10,580 copies.
- ☆ Printed the **Breastfeeding Resource Guide** with Healthy Kids: 2010 Breastfeeding Task Force; distributed 5,000 guides to physician offices throughout Lincoln and Lancaster County.
- ☆ Held a Mayor's News Conference to announce the release of a 15-page report, **A Place at the Table** (APATT) and the kick-off of our new program to promote gender equity on boards, commissions and task forces.
- ☆ Collaborated with radio station, **My 106.3 FM**, news broadcasters on bi-weekly updates about LLWC projects, programs and issues facing women in Lincoln and Lancaster County.
- ☆ In co-sponsorship with the **Lincoln-Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition** (TPPC), worked to increase public awareness on issues of teen pregnancy, National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and produced an educational television show.
- ☆ Developed and produced six **WomenTalk shows**, a bimonthly one-hour television program that airs on 5-City TV about issues relevant to women. Programs for 2003/04: "Losing Ourselves: Women & Alzheimer's," "Here's to Your Health: How to be Better Health Care Consumers," "She Serves Too: Women in the Military," "Choices for Children: Choosing Quality Providers," and "Speak Up! How to be a Public Policy Advocate."
- ☆ Participated with the U. S. Department of Labor-Women's Bureau, LLWC co-sponsored **Wise Up!** to educate, train and support long-term financial decisions through an on-line mentoring project for women.
- ☆ Participated with the U. S. Department of Labor-Women's Bureau as contact point for the **GEM Nursing** program. LLWC was awarded the federal program aimed at matching medical professionals with medical students to ensure academic and success in reaching career goals.
- ☆ Provided 19 presentations on issues that impact women to schools and civic groups.
- ☆ Collaborated with the **Commission on Human Rights** to facilitate workshops on Sexual Harassment and Racial Discrimination to career classes at six LPS high school facilities.
- ☆ Served as a liaison on the **Family Violence Council Board** on issues of violence against women.
- ☆ Co-sponsored the **Martin Luther King, Jr.** Breakfast
- ☆ Hosted LLWC's 28th annual event held in recognition of **International Women's Day, "Weaving Women's Voices"**, paying tribute to

Coffey Attends National Board Meeting

Lincoln and Lancaster County were represented at the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) winter board meeting held in Washington, DC March 2-6, 2005. Bonnie Coffey serves on the national board as elected Secretary for the association. Board agenda topics included updates and discussion of the organization's strategic plan and reports from standing committees. NACW's Winter Board luncheon was held in the Dirksen Senate Building and featured comments from Senator Hatch, Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations with American Association of University Women, and Debbie Chalfie of the National Women's Law Center. Attendees received information on homeland security, social security, education and pay equity. NACW is a nonpartisan organization composed of regional, state, county and local commissions created by government to improve the status of women. There are approximately 270 state, county and local commissions.



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exceptional individuals who work to improve the quality of life for women.

- ☆ Co-sponsored two workshops for nursing mothers returning to the work force and/or school environment with the committee, **Breastfeeding Group: Health Kids 2010**.
- ☆ Coordinated the **Fairy Godmother Program** to provide support to women in Cedars Transitional Housing Program and the Fresh Start Home.
- ☆ Participated on Omaha ICAN's advisory board for a new program, **Defining Women**, in women's leadership development.
- ☆ Participated in **Celebration of the Young Child** with The Early Care & Education Group of the Community Services Initiative, an informational program focusing on children's developmental milestones.
- ☆ Co-presented with the Older Women's League (OWL), **The Color of Money** financial workshop that presented topics covering social security and retirement.
- ☆ Represented the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission at the annual **National Association of Commissions for Women** (NACW) convention.
- ☆ Co-chaired the coalition on early childhood and youth development for the **Community Services Implementation Plan** (C-SIP).
- ☆ Created and implemented a new bi-annual networking and educational program for women of influence called, **Council of Women Leaders**.
- ☆ Worked with volunteer translators to create a health care brochure for non-English speaking women of color, **My Medical Records Manager** encourages women to contact their health care providers and seek out quality services. The booklets were published in Spanish, Vietnamese and English.
- ☆ Co-sponsored a **League of Women Voters Candidate's Forum** held April 5 at the Cedars-Northbridge Community Center.
- ☆ Co-sponsored a **Candidate's Political Forum** on April 15 at the Malone Community Center with the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights and NAACP.
- ☆ Co-sponsored the new on-line **H.U.B. Directory** with the Commission on Human Rights that lists minority and women owned businesses.
- ☆ LLWC's Leadership Committee wrote and published a 16-page guide titled, **Why Women Should Vote!** to encourage non-voting women to exercise their rights in the 2004 presidential election.
- ☆ Worked on preliminary tasks for the fall's **Women in Money** conference, co-sponsored with The Lincoln Agency.
- ☆ Issued nine **Advisory Reports** to the mayor, City Council, County Commission and Lancaster County elected officials on issues that impact women.
- ☆ Issued 306 **Congratulatory Letters** to women in the community who became "women of influence" in their private and professional lives.
- ☆ Served on the Management Team for Lincoln **Community Learning Centers** (CLC)
- ☆ Distributed more than 10,000 non-partisan **Women Vote Cards** encouraging women to exercise their right to vote.

Welcome New Commissioners

Welcome new volunteer commissioners! Approved by the City Council, Lancaster County Commission and appointed by Mayor Coleen J. Seng, three women joined the Advisory Board in April:

- Leslie K. Doyle, Multicultural Program coordinator at Nebraska Wesleyan University;
- Marcia Malone, psychologist in private practice, and
- Lori Vidlak, president of Center Star Marketing Group.

Welcome Margie Kniep

Margie Kniep joined LLWC as its Senior Office Specialist in April. Proud to be a born and bred as a Nebraska farm girl,



Margie received her Bachelors of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska at Kearney,

Margie Kniep formerly known as Kearney State College. Margie has a love of all things, especially computers, and she has spent much of her working career in various public servant positions, working for such human service agencies as the Lincoln-Lancaster County 911 dispatch unit, a staffer for the YWCA of Lincoln, and working for the Alzheimer's Association of the Great Plains. For the past two years, she has been working at home designing web sites to raise and chase after her 21-month-old son, Connor. She looks forward to being a part of the Women's Commission and the opportunity to help strengthen and support the women in the Lincoln and Lancaster community.

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